

# Councilwoman Bonner Sponsors "Shed the Meds" Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program in Mount Sinai

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***Successful event yields seven boxes of unused prescription medications.***



*Pictured with Councilwoman Bonner (center) are Suffolk County Deputy Sheriffs Candice Drinkwater and D/S Robert Volonino.*

**Farmingville, NY** - On April 6, Councilwoman Jane Bonner hosted a "Shed the Meds" Pharmaceutical Take-Back event with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center in Mount Sinai. Residents stopped by to drop off unused prescription medications. Among the items collected were opiates, pain killers, antibiotics, cancer medications, new and used syringes and more, which were then disposed of in an environmentally safe manner by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office. Pharmaceutical products that are not disposed of properly can contaminate drinking water and pose the risk of misuse.

Councilwoman Bonner said, "Thanks to the cooperation between the Town and Sheriff DeMarco and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, 'Shed the Meds' was a great success. Unused pharmaceuticals can be dangerous to leave around the house and it is encouraging to see so many of our residents come out and dispose of their old medications in a safe and environmentally friendly way."

During the event, Councilwoman Bonner also handed out several free drug testing kits as part of the Town's "Test Don't Guess" program with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The program assists parents or guardians who suspect that their minor children may be using illegal substances by providing free drug testing kits. The kits can be used as an important tool to engage in a family's critical conversations about drug use. It also offers parents a method to be reassured of their judgment and seek professional help as a first step towards the emotional and physical healing for a drug-using teen. The free drug testing program will be administered by the Town's Youth Bureau. To find out more about the "Test Don't Guess" program, go to [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org). To pick up a drug testing kit (limit 2 per family), please call the Town of Brookhaven Call Center at 451-TOWN (8696). For more information on how to safely dispose of unused medications, please contact Councilwoman Jane Bonner's office at

631-451-6964 or the Suffolk County Sheriff's office at 631-852-3436.

**Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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